

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the 15th  
Amendment to the United States Constitution.

WHEREAS, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, prohibits federal or state governments from infringing on a citizen's right to vote "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude"; and

WHEREAS, this important amendment was the last of three Reconstruction amendments ratified in the aftermath of the Civil War to abolish slavery and firmly establish minority civil rights; and

WHEREAS, this amendment, along with the 13th and 14th Amendments, became crucial in the twentieth-century struggle against discrimination; the 15th Amendment was essential in arousing national opinion against segregation in the South and in stimulating the civil rights legislation of the 1960's; and

WHEREAS, the 15th Amendment provided the basis for various actions of Congress and Supreme Court decisions regarding voting restrictions; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate this important milestone in our nation's history, it is imperative that we spark discussion, educate our communities, and encourage greater voter participation throughout our state and the entire nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Civil Rights Museum is providing a forum so that we may focus attention on the historic and current significance of voting rights in America; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 1995, the Museum will sponsor a local symposium and, on April 4, 1995, a national symposium will be held; both activities are a part of the Museum's "Power, Democracy, Freedom-Vote!" Third Annual Commemorative Symposium, a tribute to and commemoration of the extension of necessary civil rights in our society; and

WHEREAS, as elected representatives of the state of Tennessee, it is highly appropriate that we join with the Museum and Symposium participants in celebrating the ratification of one of our most important rights - the right to vote; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commemorate and join in the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.